

Serial No.: 09/689,093

- 2 -

Art Unit: 1731

59. (New) The method of claim 25, comprising adjusting the A/B ratio of the heat-treated particulate composition to a value of greater than 1.0.

60. (New) The method of claim 25, comprising adjusting the A/B ratio of the heat-treated composition by depositing a coating comprising a divalent metal compound on surfaces of particles of the heat-treated composition.

61. (New) The method of claim 42, comprising adjusting the A/B ratio of the heat-treated particulate composition to a value of greater than 1.0.

62. (New) The method of claim 42, comprising adjusting the A/B ratio of the heat-treated composition by depositing a coating comprising a divalent metal compound on surfaces of particles of the heat-treated composition.

63. (New) The method of claim 46, comprising adjusting the A/B ratio of the heat-treated particulate composition to a value of greater than 1.0.

64. (New) The method of claim 46, comprising adjusting the A/B ratio of the heat-treated composition by depositing a coating comprising a divalent metal compound on surfaces of particles of the heat-treated composition.

#### REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. Claims 1, 2, 4-13, 15-22 and 24-56 were pending in the application. Claims 57-64 have been added. Support for the newly added claims may be found in the specification. No new matter has been added. Claims 1, 2, 4-13, 15-22 and 24-64 are now pending, with claims 1, 19, 33 and 46 being independent.

#### IDS Mailed May 31, 2002

The 1449 Form of the IDS mailed by the Applicant to the USPTO on May 31, 2002 was attached to the Office Action mailed December 18, 2002. The Examiner's initials do not appear in the boxes respectively associated with citation numbers 10A-13A, though the boxes associated